

before, every one of the 48 states—every one of our 132 million Americans—faces the necessity of fullest concerted effort if, as a Nation, and as a free people, we are to survive.

These 132 million people have declared this war—not the Congress or any elected official. These American citizens have pledged their determination to eradicate the scourge of Hitler from the face of the earth. Our citizens are ready to set aside their priceless privileges, and their comforts, as well as to defray any necessary cost to pursue the conduct of the war until this Hannibal of our modern world is exterminated.

Our leaders need have no fear of the attitude of the plain citizenry. My own opinion, confirmed by other Governors here, is that the people are ahead of many of their officials in Washington in their thinking and in their resolve to take aggressive measures to fight through this conflict both to win the war and to win the peace thereafter. Furthermore, the average American citizen from Maine to California only needs to be convinced that his leaders are exercising common sense and sound judgment to have him give whole-hearted support to any undertaking.

In referring to the successful activities of the States in the war effort, I cannot refrain from reminding the citizens of a danger which will become increasingly grave unless there is watchfulness. By this I mean the danger of departing from our dual form of Government, with the States and the Federal Union as separate sovereign powers. We must preserve unimpaired the American System, including those priceless rights and freedoms which are the essence of American citizenship.

In our eagerness to furnish all support to the Federal Government in the war effort, there is latent danger that we may at the same time be laying the foundation for a definite change-about of our way of life. It is not amiss to state that there are other things of importance in addition to winning the war. The young men, now risking their lives to preserve the American system, have a right to expect that no substantial changes in their form of Government will be made before their return.

In seeking to preserve the identity of the States, the representatives of those sovereignties give evidence of their readiness to conduct their local governments in keeping with the demands of the times. We think there should be economy in Government and that all non-essential expenditures, not related to the war effort, should be curtailed or eliminated altogether. With the rising costs incident to the prosecution of the war, taxes are being increased by the Federal Government. That situation calls for a corresponding reduction of State taxation. Retrenchment should be the order of the day.

While this State program is underway, it is not out of line to express the hope that the Federal Government will adopt policies of economy. Overlapping activities of various bureaus and agencies should be eliminated, and a unification of the work of the various units, interested in similar undertakings, should be the earnest aim of our National government.

In various programs, now in effect for direct support of the war effort, there should be the greatest care exercised by our Federal officials that just and